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Security Council

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Letter dated 24 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Permanent Representatives of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex brought to the attention of the Members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed S. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On instructions from our Governments, we write to you regarding the situation in Yemen and, in particular, the letter dated 17 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/263). That letter contained errors and incorrect claims regarding Operation Decisive Storm, which was carried out by a coalition comprising several countries, including States members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).

We should like to recall that, since 2011, the approach taken by GCC States to the situation in Yemen has been founded on supporting a democratic political transition based on the GCC initiative, which has come to be known as the Gulf initiative, and the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference; continuing the dialogue among all Yemini parties, under Yemeni leadership; supporting the President and the legitimate Government; and doing what is possible to alleviate the humanitarian crisis. There is no doubt that this approach to the situation in Yemen does not differ from the approach taken by Security Council, which has repeatedly affirmed its support for the efforts of GCC States and noted the positive role played by GCC in Yemen.

We furthermore stress that GCC is addressing the situation in Yemen a manner that takes into account the direct threat the situation poses to peace and security in our region. That approach is also based on the fact that GCC is the relevant regional organization the role of which is consonant with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Accordingly, GCC has attempted to arrive at a peaceful solution to the situation in Yemen and maintain regional and international security.

Moreover, in view of the historical, fraternal ties between the Gulf peoples and the Yemeni people, GCC States were the first to respond to the humanitarian and economic crisis in Yemen. GCC States have continued to channel humanitarian and development assistance to Yemen, including through the United Nations.

The concern of GCC States has increased because of the further deterioration in the security situation in Yemen caused by the illegal unilateral actions taken by Houthi militias and forces loyal to the former President, Ali Abdullah Salih and his son Ahmad, and their supporters. Those parties have insisted on using violence to achieve political goals, take control of State institutions and security institutions, and attack the legitimacy of the Government, with the support and encouragement of an outside party. That course of action has undermined the political transition process and caused the security situation to deteriorate, a development that favours terrorist groups. It has also led to a dangerous decline in the humanitarian situation. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the activity and influence of which has increased recently, has benefited the most from the dangerous deterioration in the political and security situations. In addition, Houthi militias represent a direct threat to the region; they have made serious threats regarding the security of the States of the region and the security and safety of international strategic interests.

The Yemeni people, including women and children, have been killed by the Houthis and their supporters, who have destroyed or occupied residential buildings,

State facilities and the infrastructure. The Yemeni people has also had its human rights and fundamental freedoms comprehensively violated. Yemenis have witnessed their country sliding towards civil war, and more than half them are now in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. That is what spurred the GCC States to respond to the request made by His Excellency Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, the President of the Republic of Yemen, to GCC and the League of Arab States for the provision of assistance immediately, in all forms and by all means, including military intervention, in order to protect Yemen and its people from the ongoing Houthi aggression. The Permanent Representative of Yemen referred to this in his letter dated 24 March 2015 addressed to the President of the Security Council.

All the efforts of GCC are based on its commitment to support and help the Yemeni people; implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, which are based on international law and norms, and the Charter of the United Nations; and abide by the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the statements issued by its President since 2011 regarding the situation in Yemen. The GCC has also abided by international humanitarian law in the course of Operation Decisive Storm. It efforts have furthermore been designed to ensure the safety of civilians; facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance and enable humanitarian actors to deliver assistance quickly, safely and without impediments; protect diplomatic and consular buildings; and facilitate the ability of States and international organizations to evacuate their civilian staff members and those staff members' dependants. The GCC States have made it their core priority to respect the sovereignty and independence of Yemen and its territorial and national integrity.

The GCC States continue to strive to create the necessary conditions for the cessation of hostilities and create an environment that is conducive to a political solution. Those goals can be achieved by reviving the GCC initiative and its implementing mechanism, and acting on the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference, including the drafting of a new constitution, effecting electoral reform and holding a plebiscite on the new constitution, in order to avoid a further deterioration in the security and humanitarian situations in Yemen. The GCC States have expressed their readiness to support dialogue and have called for a dialogue conference to be held in Riyadh under the auspices of GCC.

In view of the grave repercussions that could arise from the support that the Islamic Republic of Iran is providing to the Houthis, who are striving to undermine the legitimate Government and the stability of Yemen and neighbouring countries, we request the Security Council to demand that the Islamic Republic of Iran should desist from any measures aimed at undermining regional security, particularly in Yemen, or that are designed to threaten the independence, sovereignty and unity of Yemen and its legitimate President and Government, including, in particular, those measures that are contrary to international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the Security Council on Yemen, the latest of which is resolution 2216 (2015).

We should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter to the members of the Security Council and have it issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdulaziz S M A **AlJarallah**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Lyutha S. **Al-Mughairy**
Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Lana Zaki **Nusseibeh**
Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations